

Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace, without prejudice, all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Canceled)
2. (Currently amended) A method for producing a mature dendritic cell, which comprises the step of
 - (i) contacting a ~~minus-strand RNA viral~~ Sendai virus vector with a an immature dendritic cell or
 - (ii) contacting a Sendai virus vector with a precursor cell thereof of a dendritic cell to cause the precursor cell to differentiate into an immature dendritic cell,
wherein said immature dendritic cell of (i) or (ii) undergoes maturation thereby producing a mature dendritic cell.
3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the contacting step involves contacting the ~~minus-strand RNA viral~~ Sendai virus vector with an immature dendritic cell.
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein ~~the contacting step involves contacting the minus-strand RNA viral vector with a~~ CD34⁺ cell the precursor cell is a CD34⁺ cell or CD11c⁺ cell.
5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3 ~~or 4~~, ~~further comprising the step of~~ wherein step (ii) comprises culturing the precursor cell in the presence of GM-CSF and IL-4 before or after the ~~contact step~~ contacting step.
6. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein the vector comprises a cytokine gene.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the cytokine is interferon β .
8. (Canceled)
9. (Canceled)
10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 4 or 2, wherein the cell is a human cell.
11. (Currently amended) A An isolated vector ~~comprising containing~~ mature dendritic cell produced by the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 10~~ claim 2.
12. (Canceled)
13. (Original) A method for suppressing tumor growth, which comprises the step of delivering the dendritic cell of claim 11 to a tumor site.
14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of contacting a tumor antigen with the dendritic cell and/or expressing ~~the tumor~~ a tumor antigen in the dendritic cell.
15. (New) The method of claim 2, wherein the vector comprises a foreign gene.
16. (New) The mature dendritic cell of claim 11, wherein the vector comprises a foreign gene.
17. (New) The mature dendritic cell of claim 11, wherein the foreign gene encodes a cytokine or an antigenic peptide.

18. (New) The mature dendritic cell of claim 17, wherein the cytokine is interferon β .
19. (New) The mature dendritic cell of claim 11, wherein the cell is a human cell.
20. (New) The method of claim 1, which comprises the step of contacting a Sendai virus vector with a precursor cell of a dendritic cell and differentiating the cell into an immature dendritic cell, thereby the immature dendritic cell is spontaneously matured.
21. (New) An isolated precursor of an immature dendritic cell comprising a Sendai virus vector.
22. (New) The cell of claim 21, wherein said cell is a CD11c⁺ precursor cell of an immature dendritic cell.
23. (New) An isolated immature dendritic cell comprising a Sendai virus vector.
24. (New) An isolated mature dendritic cell comprising a Sendai virus vector.